Mosaic Chapter 7

Bringing Text to Life

Composing Session

* Time each day for students to be immersed in reading challenging and interesting texts in a wide variety of genres, applying what they have been taught in crafting sessions.
* Each day students have an opportunity to write in writers notebooks, collecting and gathering short pieces they may choose to develop into longer formal pieces later.
* Time for students to turn their written pieces into published pieces.
* An opportunity for students to select texts that is interesting to them and appropriate given their learning goals as readers.
* Students can choose writing topics that are of interest to them.
* Students can meet in book clubs to discuss books they have read in common and ways they have applied deep and surface structure strategies in those texts.
* Time to plan what they will share in whole group and reflection sessions.

Characteristics of effective composing sessions

* Students are deeply engaged in independent work for long periods of time.
* The classroom is filled with a sense of urgency. Students are eager to apply what they have learned in crafting sessions.
* There is an atmosphere that supports rehearsal.
* Students feel independent and trusted to make the right choices.
* There is a spirit of camaraderie. Students are eager to share their thoughts with other students and help each other improve their writing.
* Teachers move around the classroom.

How children can record their thinking about books

* Thinking notebooks-students record their strategy in a notebook and record how they applied it and how it worked for them.
* Sticky notes to show strategy use in text.
* Double entry journals containing quotes from the text along with the students thoughts about the quote.
* Venn diagrams
* Highlighting text to show where a strategy was used.
* Story maps/webs to show thinking about important topics.
* Bar and line graphs to show changes in frequency of a strategy over time.

Artistic ways to show thinking about a book

* Sketching images and other manifestations of thinking during reading.
* Artistic metaphors-creating visual metaphor for thinking during reading. Photographs of the mind. Quick images from particular moments in a text.

Oral thinking about a book

* Four way share.
* Think-pair-share
* Book clubs and literature circles
* Large and small group sharing.
* Strategy study groups.